



ANNOUNCEMENTS

for March 27, 2020

Parkersburg & Morgantown, WV and Athens, OH

Greetings everyone:

We indeed are living in unusual times. The coronavirus infections have worsened and some hospitals are being overwhelmed.

It is important that we stay calm and focused on the promises of the Bible. God promises to be with us even under difficult times. This doesn't mean that we will not have trials and problems.

Paul spoke of the way we should react in 2 Tim 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." God promises to take care of us in the end! The Bible also says there will be pestilences.

Our schedules have been changed because of these events. See below for full details. This Sabbath a webcast from COGWA will be broadcast at 1:00 PM tomorrow. On the Sabbath of April 4th, I will be giving a sermon from my office in Belpre at 1:30 AM. Details on the webcast and phone hookup will be sent next week. On Passover, Tuesday April 7th, I plan to webcast from my office in Belpre. Time: 8:00 PM.

Those who have internet can download the Passover service by using the link [Passover Service](#). I am planning to send a DVD of the Passover service and Passover instructions next week to those who do not have internet service. COGWA is sending several copies of the Passover video. Members should purchase the wine and unleavened bread before the Passover. If something goes wrong with the webcast, you can use the written instructions or the Passover video.

The office in McKinney has been closed and most are working at home during this period.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or send an email.

Have a great Sabbath!

Bill Jahns

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/2020-03-March_Calendar.jpg

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/January--March_2020_Speaking_Schedule_Final.pdf

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Member-Letter-Mar-5-2020.pdf>

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/2021_Israel_Trip_Announcement.pdf

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/FOI-Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Fact-Sheet--English-Project--Zimbabwe-2020.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Fact-Sheet--English-Project--Zambia-2020.pdf>

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Passover_at_Home.pdf

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS 03/28/2020 Sunset: Parkersburg: 7:46 PM

CHURCH INFORMATION – Church of God, a Worldwide Association has a website where you can get the latest information.

Donations can be sent to: Church of God a Worldwide Association, P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480

Local donations can be sent to: Church of God, Parkersburg, P.O. Box 181, Davisville, WV 26142

WEB SITE – Parkersburg, Athens and Morgantown have their own website which can be accessed for the schedule, announcements and other information. The URL is: <http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/>

PRAYER REQUESTS – See the information table for the latest prayer requests.

PASSOVER GUIDELINES

Households taking the Passover: Our recommendation is that each family household partake of the Passover in their home. We do not recommend families getting together to take the Passover. The exception would be where it's necessary to assist an elderly person or a couple in need. If members choose to have others outside their family, such as a single person or a member whose spouse is not in the Church, they should be aware of the current guidelines for gatherings as recommended by the CDC, which currently limits gatherings to 10 or fewer.

Night to Be Much Observed:

Due to the contact and hygiene concerns, we advise against having large group plans for the Night to Be Much Observed. Some were planning congregational meals, and some were planning large-group restaurant meals. Given the CDC guidelines of limiting contact, we feel anyone who has such plans should make other arrangements. Our recommendation is for families to have a special evening and meal together on that occasion

SABBATH WEBCAST & PHONE HOOKUP INFORMATION

Sabbath service webcast—March 28: Tomorrow all U.S. (and some international) COGWA congregations will be together for our third remote Sabbath services. These services will be webcast live on cogwa.tv from the Church office in McKinney, Texas, and will begin at 12 noon, Central Daylight Time. For those calling in, the dial-in number is **605-472-5473**, and the participant code is **130095**.

You can access the webcast from headquarters simply by going to COGWA.TV.

No password is necessary. It will also be available on your ROKU channel.

SCHEDULE

Passover

Tuesday, April 7th

Webcast Time: 8:00 PM

1st Day of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, April 9th

Webcast – From COGWA Time: 1 PM

7th Day of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, April 15th

Webcast – From COGWA Time: 1 PM

Camp Application System Opens

For the past several months, we have been working toward a new application system for COGWA Youth Camps that will integrate with our database system. We are now happy to announce that the system will open at 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Sunday, March 15, at which time you can start applying for our 2020 camps.

You will start at the same place you've always gone—the COGWA Portal. When you log into the account, you will see the CYC application notice at the bottom left of your screen. To this point, everything will look the same. However, when you click on the “Apply” button, you will notice things starting to change.

The instructions in the blue box above your list of household members will be much larger with a lot more detailed instructions. We encourage you to read everything in that blue box **very carefully!** You will note several important points, including the following highlights:

- There are new forms spread across several pages and very little will be “pre-populated” (automatically filled in), so you will have to enter a lot of information for each household member this year.
- However, once you have entered that information for an applicant, applying for a second camp will be very quick. Whatever you entered will pre-populate any subsequent 2020 camp application—for that applicant.
- Please note, this will apply for **each household member individually.**
- This system will require you to upload a photo with **each application,** so you will need to have handy a recent full-face digital photo (taken within the last three months) to upload with each application.

We understand this will take a little more time this year, but it will allow us to pull that data into our new system to be able to pre-populate additional applications. The system is new, and though we have tested it extensively, it is quite possible that we may need to make a minor tweak here or there. Once we have this year's data and are comfortable with how the system is working, we will be able to address how much we can pre-populate forms for everyone next year.

We appreciate your patience in working with this new system. If you have any trouble or questions, you can contact us at registration@cogwa.org, and we'll be happy to assist you.

COGWA Youth Camps (reminder): With the current COVID-19 restrictions, many have asked about our plans for our CYC summer camps. Our COGWA camp directors in the United States have been in contact with the facilities that we rent to check on our booking reservations. Our first camp is now 11 weeks away.

It is our hope and prayer that by the time our camp dates arrive, all activities will be able to go forward, and “social distancing” will be a thing of the past. At this point in time, we are planning for all of our camps to go forward as scheduled. Of course, if federal, state or local restrictions continue into late spring or summer, we will have to reevaluate at that time.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage campers and staff to *apply for U.S. camps now*, as normal. If an unforeseen situation arises where a camp has to be canceled, we can easily *refund your tuition*. But, due to the current uncertainty, we suggest that you *not* purchase airline tickets at this time.

Announcements from COGWA

Sabbath service webcast—March 28: Tomorrow all U.S. (and some international) COGWA congregations will be together for our third remote Sabbath services. These services will be webcast live on cogwa.tv from the Church office in McKinney, Texas, and will begin at 12 noon, Central Daylight Time. For those calling in, the dial-in number is **605-472-5473**, and the participant code is **130095**.

Dress for viewing remote Sabbath Services: With webcast Sabbath services the past two weeks, and likely for the next month or so, some of our members have asked questions about how they should dress for their in-home viewing of Sabbath services. It is not our teaching that they must “dress up” in Sabbath dress for the service in their home. Circumstances vary, and we should leave that to members as a personal decision. Of course, it is good if an individual (or a family) chooses to do so. But members have dressed in varied types of clothing for services at church campouts and other unique outings over the years. Thus, it is the Church’s position that whether to don Sabbath dress for viewing an in-home service is a personal decision, not a Church teaching. We are not asking that you make an announcement to this effect, but sharing this with the ministry in case members ask about such.

Holy day offering FAQs: We have received a few questions regarding the holy day offerings for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The following questions and answers come from COGWA treasurer Britton Taylor:

Q: On the holy days, will there be an offertory message provided?

A: Yes, an offertory message or announcement will be given during the church service from the Church office.

Q: Will the members be expected to go to the church donation website during the time the offering is being “collected”? Or perhaps just at some time on the holy day, not specifically during the “offering”? Or should the offering be made a day or two prior to the holy day?

A: We want to leave it up to the individual members as to the timing of their HDO. We have no specific guidelines or recommendation. (This would be similar to how those who travel to an international Feast site might send in their HDO donation *before* they leave the country or *after* they return.)

Here are some options, but none is required:

- Those who donate online (by eCheck or by credit card) can choose to push “send” during the offertory if they would like. But this is not necessary.
- Those who are mailing in their offering may want to mail their offering on the specific holy day. But this is not necessary.
- Those who donate by bill pay can choose in advance the day that they want the check to be mailed.
- The HDO may be sent in advance of the holy day.

Q: If mailing an HDO, would you prefer the blue envelope inside another envelope, or would you rather we just put on the check that it is an HDO? If sending online, all one needs to do is designate it as an HDO.

A: Since the checks will be received by our bank, we wouldn’t want the blue envelopes included. However, it is important that the “memo” line of your check include the following information: holy day, your congregation, and how many individuals are represented in your offering (for example, FDUB, Dallas, 3 people).

WEBCASTING SCHEDULE

Local Pastor Webcasts: • Sabbath, April 4. • Passover, evening of April 7. • Sabbath, April 11. • Sabbaths following the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Church office will conduct live webcast services for the entire Church on the following days: • Sabbath, March 21. • Sabbath, March 28. • First holy day of Unleavened Bread, April 9. • Last holy day of Unleavened Bread, April 15.

YOUTH CAMPS

COGWA Youth Camps: With the current COVID-19 restrictions, many have asked about our plans for our CYC summer camps. Our COGWA camp directors have been in contact with the facilities that we rent to check on our booking reservations. Our first camp is now 11 weeks away.

It is our hope and prayer that by the time our camp dates arrive, all activities will be able to go forward, and “social distancing” will be a thing of the past. At this point in time, we are planning for all of our camps to go forward as scheduled. Of course, if federal, state or local restrictions continue into late spring or summer, we will have to reevaluate at that time.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage campers and staff to *apply for camp now* as normal. If an unforeseen situation arises where a camp has to be canceled, we can easily *refund your tuition*. But, due to the current uncertainty, we suggest that you *not* purchase airline tickets at this time.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Weekly Update – March 26, 2020

Sabbath services—March 28

- Sabbath services from headquarters at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time on [cogwa.tv](#) and [Roku](#).

Sabbath services—April 4, 11, 18 and 25

- Beginning April 4, we are encouraging every pastor who can to webcast to his congregations. He will inform members in his areas of time and connection details.
- We will also be webcasting a full Sabbath service (hymns, sermonette or split sermon, announcements, sermon) at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time from headquarters on [cogwa.tv](#) and [Roku](#).
- All local services will be held either before or after the webcast from headquarters, so there will be no scheduling conflict.

Passover—April 7

- Passover services should be live webcast, if possible, in each congregation and/or region by the local pastor, beginning shortly after sunset. The pastor will inform members in his areas of time and connection details.
- As a backup (in case there are problems with webcasting), each pastor will inform members how to download in advance a video of the Passover service and will also make sure everyone has written instructions for taking the Passover at home.

Feast of Unleavened Bread—April 9

- First holy day services from headquarters at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time on [cogwa.tv](#) and [Roku](#).
- In regions where, because of the time difference, it is not feasible to log on to the webcast from headquarters, pastors will plan how to provide local services and will notify members in those areas.

Feast of Unleavened Bread—April 15

- Last holy day services (one service only) from headquarters at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time on [cogwa.tv](#) and [Roku](#).
- If pastors desire and are able to webcast a second service locally, they are certainly encouraged to do so, as long as it does not conflict with the time of the headquarters service.

Connecting to the headquarters webcast

- You can access the webcast simply by going to [cogwa.tv](#). No password is necessary. It will also be available on your [Roku](#) channel. We will also be providing simultaneous translation in Spanish (<http://iddam.org/webcast/> or [cogwa.tv](#)) and in French (<http://membres.eddam.org/enseignement/webdiffusion-detude-biblique/> or [cogwa.tv](#)).

Office update

- By order of the City of McKinney, the office is temporarily closed and employees are working from home, with the exception that we are allowed to have people on-site to prepare for and conduct video or teleconference services. We continue to monitor local regulations and will abide by the governmental directives to do our part in stopping the spread of the virus.

Subscribe to this update

- To subscribe to receive a notification email every time we post a new update, simply click on the “Get Email Updates” icon on the COGWA members’ site (<https://members.cogwa.org/>). That will take you to the subscription page, where you enter your name and email address, and then click on the Member Updates option.
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